

HOWNIIKAN

Nmébnegises | March 2024



CPN employee writes
Oscar nominated song



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Walking on



Lewis, Ybarra awarded scholarship to attend conference

Two Citizen Potawatomi Nation employees received a scholarship recently to attend a conference and bring back expertise to help victims of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Advocate Melody Ybarra with House of Hope and CPN Police Sergeant Donnie Lewis received a scholarship to attend the Conference on Crimes Against Women, which is held annually in Dallas.

Both Ybarra and Lewis have attended the conference before, so they know what to expect, but they said each year is different and provides valuable training and information.

"It's just great training," Lewis said. "You never know what you're going to learn or who you're going to meet. You can exchange information and stories and experiences."

The Nancy Ann Hunt Foundation Scholarship, just one of four scholarships for the conference, was designed for an out-of-state multi-disciplinary team with a background in domestic violence and investigation.

Ybarra said in the past, the conference has included guests such as the prosecutors from the Bill Cosby case, who discussed the information they presented at trial. Panels include speakers across all disciplines, including investigators, family attorneys, judges, probation officers, prosecutors, nurses and others.

"There's stuff about tribal law. There's stuff about tribal statutes and codes and regulations, about filing protective orders," Ybarra said. "There's just a whole array of different types of topics they go over, all having to do with crimes against women."

The conference lasts four days, with multiple sessions offered throughout the day, and attendees can pick the classes that will be most helpful to them in their line of work. Attendees get input from people from a variety of backgrounds as they discuss how best to help victims of domestic violence.

"We're able to see an officer's point of view, a judge's point of view, prosecutors' ... so we're able to bring that together and work together as a team to serve victims," Ybarra said. "So that's kind of the importance of this conference, bringing all of these people together."

Lewis also said he finds it helpful that the conference brings together not just people from different backgrounds, but also people from a wide variety of locations — he even said he met a detective from Guam one year. Sometimes, getting to know people from other locations can help them establish connections and learn things from another perspective.

"Not only are we learning, but we're able to network with other people that are in our service area," Ybarra said. "They might be struggling with the same things we're struggling with."



House of Hope Domestic Violence Advocate Melody Ybarra, left, and CPN Police Sergeant Donnie Lewis received a scholarship to attend the Conference on Crimes Against Women.

In addition to networking with others in their fields, they're also able to bring back accurate, up-to-date information to benefit coworkers at CPN.

"That's a big reason I go," Lewis said. "I have young officers who see me as a veteran, and they're always asking me questions. I don't want to be giving them the wrong information."

The two will attend the conference in May, and the scholarship covers the fees for the conference as well as the stay.

"It's just a good opportunity," Ybarra said. "We're able to take whatever we learn at the conference and bring it back and implement it into our programs."

Ybarra has been working as an advocate for House of Hope for seven years. She was recently named the Victim Advocate for Pottawatomie County in 2023 and received a Citation of Recognition from the State of Oklahoma House of Representatives for her work with victims of domestic violence. Before working with House of Hope, she also completed internships with a drug and alcohol prevention program and with a domestic violence shelter in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Lewis has worked in law enforcement for about 28 years, 14 of those years with Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He is currently the evidence officer for CPN.

For more information about House of Hope, visit cphouseofhope.com. For more information on the Conference on Crimes Against Women, visit conferencecaw.org. 🔥

Golf course donates utility vehicle to SSC

A local college benefited recently from a FireLake Golf Course donation.

The golf course donated a Kubota RV 900 utility vehicle to Seminole State College's golf program in Seminole, Oklahoma.

"It was 20 years old, so it was time for us to replace it," FireLake Golf Course Director Chris Chesser said.

SSC Coach Ronnie Williamson inquired about the vehicle, Chesser said, and after speaking to Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, the decision was made to donate the vehicle once it was replaced.

SSC plans to use the vehicle to pick up balls on the driving range for men's and women's golf teams.

"We want to thank FireLake Golf Director Chris Chesser for this generous donation. This vehicle will be a great asset to our teams," Williamson said.

FireLake Golf Course, one of Citizen Potawatomi Nation's enterprises, is located just outside of Shawnee, Oklahoma, near Tribal headquarters. The SSC golf team usually uses the Jimmie Austin Golf Course in Seminole, but Chesser said they sometimes play or practice at FireLake Golf Course instead.

"We are very appreciative of the support Seminole State College receives from Citizen Potawatomi Nation,"



Pictured from left are SSC golfers Brett Griffith, Chase Conner, Ryan Carlisle, Paola Gutierrez, and Andrianna O'Daniel, SSC Golf Head Coach Ronnie Williamson, FireLake Golf Course Director Chris Chesser, Brice Wolf, Carson Newton and Alexander Landon. (Photo provided)

SSC President Lana Reynolds said. "This donation will help our golf program and the student athletes on our teams. We would like to thank Chairman Rocky Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps for their longtime friendship and continued support."

For more information about FireLake Golf Course, visit firelakegolf.com. 🌿



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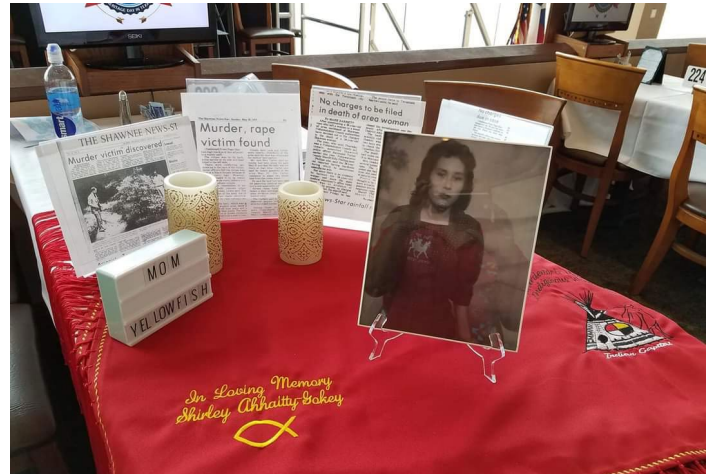
Working towards solutions

By Kayla Woody,
CPN House of Hope Prevention Specialist

Throughout the United States and Canada, there is a widespread issue of violence against Indigenous people. For decades, Native American and Alaska Native communities have struggled with extremely high rates of violence. In 2018, Oklahoma was among the top 10 states with the highest number of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People cases, and Oklahoma City was among the top 10 cities listed as having the highest number of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women cases that were **not in law enforcement records**. Carmen Harvie, president of the Oklahoma state chapter of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, stated that there are about 500 Native Americans in Oklahoma who are missing or whose murder is unsolved.

This past November, House Bill 1077 took effect in the state. Known as Kasey Alert, the alert system is to help locate missing at-risk adults in Oklahoma between the ages of 18 and 59. The bill requires the Department of Public Safety to create and implement the program for critically missing adults, which will send out alerts with facts about the missing person and situation, along with information to contact tribal authorities in cases involving Native Americans. A critically missing adult is defined as someone whose whereabouts are unknown and who is believed to have been abducted or taken against their will. The state already had active Amber and Silver Alert systems for missing children and elderly individuals prior to the signing of the bill. This new alert would benefit those of a median age who are often overlooked.

The alert was established in honor of Kasey Russell, a 29-year-old Cherokee Nation citizen who went missing on June 27, 2016, and whose family struggled to get support from law enforcement. The author of the bill, Senator Cody Rogers stated, "This bill is named for a young man who disappeared while walking home from a casino, and he sadly never made it home. There was no



Shirley Ahhaitty Gokey is one of too many MMIW whose case was never solved.

investigation into his disappearance until his body was found. I appreciate my colleagues for supporting this measure as it will increase cooperation between agencies and speed up investigations for missing persons."

Since November, five alerts were sent out, including one for missing 19-year-old Trey Glass, also a Cherokee Nation member, who went missing Dec. 15, 2023, and has yet to be located.

Although this is a step in the right direction to combating the ever-growing issue, there are still many barriers that Native families must face when trying to locate their loved ones. One requirement of the alert system is the filing of a police report. Unfortunately, many families are denied the ability to file those reports, and their stories are not regarded.

If you or someone you know is experiencing stalking, intimate partner violence, and/or sexual assault and would like more information, please contact the House of Hope at 405-275-3176 or visit us online at facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope. 🔥



PAID FOR BY MATT HIGDON

Elect **MATT HIGDON**
CPN DISTRICT 9 LEGISLATOR

"My goal if elected, is to serve the next Seven Generations while learning from the previous Seven Generations and all they have done for our tribe."



Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

Bozho Jayek, (Hello everyone),

There is a lot going on with the Language Department this month. First, I want to welcome the newest member of our department, Shelly Watson. She was just recognized for her five-year anniversary here at the Tribe. She has only been with us for a couple of months now but has already become a valuable member of our team.

By the time you receive this Hownikan, we will be getting ready to start up our new six-week, twice a week language class which is being taught by Josey Wood and Cole Rattan. The first class is March 5. It will be every Tuesday and Thursday for six weeks from 6 p.m. Central Time to about 7:30 p.m. The class is at the Tribe's Cultural Heritage Center. There will also be an online option. If you need the link sent to you, please email language@potawatomi.org.

We will also be having our annual *Bbon Yatsokewen* Winter Storytelling event. It will be March 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. It will be at the Cultural Heritage Center. We have always had a pretty good turnout for this event. If you would like to attend in person or online, please RSVP at language@potawatomi.org.

We are also offering an Elders class from 11:45 a.m. to noon at the Elders Center. We do it right before the noon meal on Wednesdays. This class is taught by Cole Rattan and Shelly Watson. Make sure to join us on Wednesdays.

If you haven't tried out some of our online courses, go to learning.potawatomi.org You can create an account and start accessing content. We currently have an Introduction course, middle school age course, and several others that are in the works including a grammar based course and a children's course for younger kids.

Also, we are constantly adding to and improving on our online dictionary. One neat feature we have been developing with the assistance of our IT Department is a conjugation tool. The first one is specifically for VTA (verb transitive



Language Department staff pictured from left are Cole Rattan, Shelly Watson, Justin Neely and Josey Wood.

animate) verbs. These verbs tend to be a little challenging to conjugate. You are able to choose from a drop-down box the person then the verb then the person being acted on. We hope to eventually have this available on all our VTA verbs and then even for some of the other conjugations. We hope this tool will make using the language even easier for students.

We are currently working on *Winnie the Pooh* in Potawatomi. The classic novel is now in public domain. We are making the 10 chapters into episodes which we will release as we finish each chapter. We also have a series of skits which comes out each Tuesday. The skits are designed to build off of the previous skits. First you listen to the skit, then we go over the vocab, then we translate the skits line by line, and finally you hear the skit one more time.

If you are interested, we will be hosting a master apprentice summer program for eight weeks this summer starting sometime in May. Email if you are interested in applying. You can also apply online at cpn.news/masterapprentice24.

*Bedo gwi-wabmegom gaga she
Bodéwadmimwen kenomagewen.*

We hope to see you all soon at
Potawatomi Language Class.

Migwetch (Thank you) 🍷

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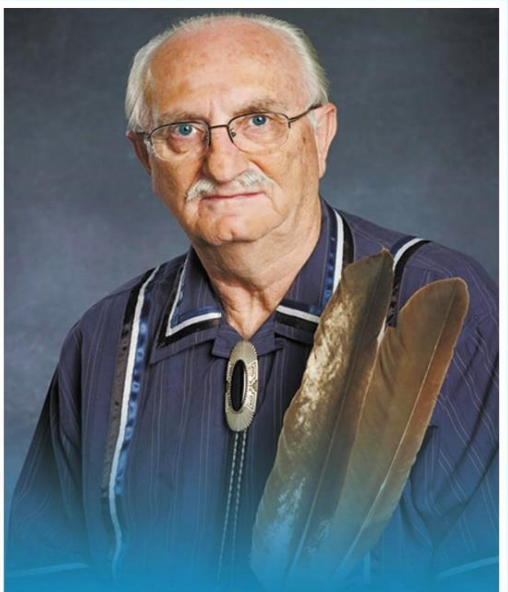
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RE-ELECT
PAUL WESSELHÖFT
DISTRICT 9

- Vietnam Era and Desert Storm Veteran
- State and Tribal Legislator
- Fifth Generation Oklahoman
- Descendant of Chief Abraham Burnett

CPN, local alliance make progress

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has joined other area tribes to help reduce the number of Indigenous people who are experiencing homelessness.

Representatives of CPN, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma and the Sac & Fox Nation comprise the Native Homeless Alliance, which formed in July 2023. The group meets monthly in Shawnee to discuss outreach efforts.

A February 2022 City of Shawnee report said 31 percent of the Shawnee unhoused population was Native American. The Alliance set a goal to cut the rate of Native Americans experiencing homelessness by 50 percent by July 2024. As of November 2023, the Native American homelessness rate was 22 percent, a City of Shawnee press release said.

Recently, the city received criticism following the passage of two controversial city ordinances. The first, passed in November 2023, requires a city permit prior to feeding groups of people in downtown Shawnee. The second, passed in December 2023, prohibits sitting or lying down on sidewalks in downtown Shawnee.

However, the Native Homeless Alliance is focused on providing services that can help individuals achieve a more stable living environment and further reduce the number of Native Americans experiencing homelessness.

Community Services Counselor Michelle Ramirez is one of CPN's representatives on the Native Homeless Alliance, along with Safe and Stable Families Counselor Stephanie McElfresh. Other members include Judy Shed, executive director, Kickapoo Housing Authority, Tara Wallace, community relations coordinator, Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority and Mindy Eicher, adult protective services, Sac & Fox Nation.

Complex causes

Ramirez said events such as economic downturns and natural disasters like the April 19, 2023, tornado have contributed to the current crisis.

"A lot of people are in need; they lost their own home, or their rental home. The landlords aren't contracted to give them another home because that (home) was destroyed. So, we had a lot of families that were displaced," Ramirez said.

Around that time, a representative of the City of Shawnee reached out. Together, the group decided to increase outreach to offer services to tribal members and to Native Americans within their jurisdictional boundaries.

The factors that cause a person to become unhoused are often complicated, Ramirez said. People may have lost their job, then lost their home, or they may be battling substance abuse or have untreated mental health disorders that make it difficult to remain employed.

Breaking barriers

The clients they hope to assist do not always welcome services that will provide housing. Some have lived on the street for so long and adapted so that any change is upsetting, Ramirez said. Patience is key.

"If they have been on the streets for a very long time, they feel like it's their home. They can't imagine being in a home. They may be scared because they feel like they're going to be by themselves," she said. "They just want to be heard. We can help identify what the barriers are, then we know what resources we need to tap into."

Being more visible in the community has helped the group develop trust with clients, something that hopefully will lead to more people accepting services, Ramirez said. Trust is essential because some clients may have had a previous bad experience with social service agencies.

Other clients worry their use of drugs or alcohol may prevent them from receiving services, when in fact, they may qualify for behavioral health treatment for their addiction.

There may still be challenges after someone has accepted services. Tribal housing programs, often federally funded, may restrict residents with certain criminal backgrounds. While specific regulations vary from tribe to tribe, it is still difficult to navigate the rules.

Sometimes there are other difficulties that the group hopes to tackle. Some landlords have refused to accept tribal housing vouchers, Shed said. Whether that is due to the program's complexity, paperwork requirements or other issues is yet to be determined.

Gathering resources

After a few meetings, the group decided to organize a Native American Resource Fair where unhoused tribal members could easily connect with tribal representatives and learn more about available services. Often, the unhoused do not have transportation, and very few affordable public transportation options exist, making it difficult to travel to their tribal offices to receive services.

"We want them to be able to be open with someone else about what they're going through and then meeting them where they're at because they might be comfortable with where they're at," Wallace said.

The Alliance also helps tribal members who don't have documentation. Many federal programs require tribal issued identification for participants to qualify. Fortunately, a local church stepped in and offered the use of its address so individuals could obtain identification.

"When you are just living out of a backpack or just a little bag, your stuff gets stolen, or you lose your IDs all the



Stephanie McElfresh

time,” Ramirez said. “But the church has stepped up and lets them use their address and they can get their mail there. And if they want to keep their IDs there, they’re secure.”

This unique solution was “huge,” Ramirez said. “Coming together with communities and churches and just whatever community, organization that stepped in to fill the gap as to what was needed was a wonderful step.”

Other sources of funding may help applicants pay rent and cover a deposit. Other options include transitional housing that allows an applicant to pay a small fee while they obtain employment and save their funds toward their own rental.

“Some people may think, ‘Oh, they can’t help me because I don’t live in their jurisdiction.’ But there are programs like emergency tribal funding. There are things that tribes can help with if they’re out of their jurisdiction,” Ramirez said.

The resource fair was a success, with 80 people attending.

Wallace and the group give credit to Erika Genty, former City of Shawnee Homeless Program Coordinator, with the Alliance’s early success.

“Erika has done a tremendous amount of legwork because it’s not just ‘Here’s a flier,’ but actually one-on-one conversation, just letting them know, ‘We care, and we’re actually going to do something about it,’” she said. “We just reach out to one another and with all of our resources put together, it’s just amazing.”

“Our goal was to bring the Native American homeless population down by half within the first year. And we did it within the first five months,” Ramirez said.

She was encouraged as she watched other tribal departments and community groups jump in to help. During a recent cold snap, Alliance members helped support a warming sta-

tion near downtown Shawnee, gathering donations like hats, gloves, blankets and toiletry items. The Alliance also sponsored an evening meal for the people at the warming station.

The next level

The time they have spent together as the Alliance has improved their overall communication. Members can easily contact each other and quickly refer clients to available services.

“Now we have such a good network, and we have each other’s cell phone numbers. Sometimes we wonder, ‘Why didn’t we do this a long time ago? What took us so long?’” Ramirez said.

The Alliance is eager to take their services to another level that will increase outreach.

“We have recently decided to become a nonprofit. We’re going to work towards getting our 501(c)(3). That way we can actually start asking for funding, and then we can (offer) our own resources. We have so many goals. We’re so excited,” Ramirez said.

Shed said housing programs are often restricted how they may spend their funds, but a nonprofit organization would have more flexibility to help clients.

“We’ve been talking about people donating so that money can go into things that we can’t pay for,” she said. “It would open that up for greater needs that can’t be met within our jobs.”

With the non-profit designation, the group could even qualify for additional grant funding. They have discussed creating a mobile health unit or helping clients with misdemeanor convictions have their records expunged to more easily qualify for housing. Overall, their goal is to help break down some of the huge barriers to obtaining housing into small, workable pieces.

The group would like to see the City of Shawnee apply for Continuum of Care through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The program provides funding for nonprofit providers and state and local governments with the goal of ending homelessness.

Currently, the program covers a three-state range that includes Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas. There have been few applicants so Ramirez is hopeful this untapped funding would support additional efforts.

“That would be money that the city can get and use towards homelessness initiatives that they bring about. It’s great that Erika put that into play,” she said.

Long term, the Alliance would like to be able to accept community donations. Grassroots efforts in the community have helped a great deal, from donations of

Continued on page 9

Anishnabé star knowledge

Note: The Hownikan will share a series of columns this year by Minisa Crumbo Halsey. This is the first in a series that focuses on traditional Anishnabé star knowledge. Crumbo Halsey recommends viewing the Star Chart created by Kyle Malott, Pokogan Band Language Department available at cpn.news/starchart and downloading the Sky Guide smartphone app to locate the constellations in the series.

By Minisa Crumbo Halsey

Bozho Nikon, Hello. My bone,

Let us, Anishnabé, begin by 'making a prayer' of gratitude and thanks for all of the gifts:

Nengosek: the Star Beings

Sekmekwe: our Mother Earth

Gizes: our Father-Sky Sun

Debek-Gizes: the Grandmother Moon

Mamogosnan, Creator... we pray that we might see clearly and be seen clearly ... and walk the straight path laid down for us in the Seven Grandfather's Teachings, which give us the Good Ways by which we might live.

THE SEVEN GRANDFATHERS' TEACHINGS

Humility. *Dbaadendiziwin*

Bravery. *Aakwa'ode'ewin*

Honesty. *Gwekwaadziwin*

Wisdom. *Nbwaakaawin*

Truth. *Debewin*

Respect. *Mnaadendimowin*

Love. *Zaagidwin*

Aho! Nikan ... ni je naaaaa ... mno waben my relatives!

It is sunrise and the light is pushing back the dark. The light is awakening our world just as the night protects all things and makes visible our star relatives in the night sky. We awaken from the star lit night to a sun star lit day of the eighth sun prophesy.

Each of us, the long hairs, the newborn among us, the children and the elders, teens, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, grandparents, husbands and wives, all. We are each and everything one of us drawing and receiving our first conscious breaths, our next conscious breaths and remembering ourselves alive in a living world ... a living world of heartbeat, breath, movement and blood memory.

As Nishnabé, First Nations and the two-legged lowered down, we remember, whoever and whatever we are or appear to be, our native blood, heartbeat and connection to the Creator and the land. No

matter our lifestyle or gene pool we are Indian and that is the most precious and mysterious gift of Spirit connection ever to be conceived of or lived.

Through our personal, familial, tribal affiliations and collective ceremonies we have a sacred charge to reach out, participate in and to support ourselves and our people...and to not forget who we are and what we have.

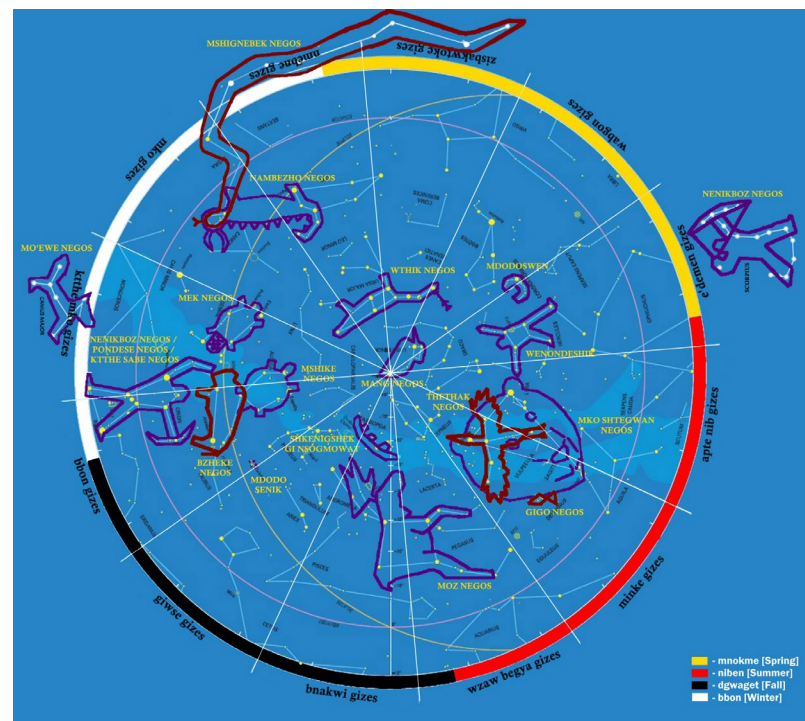
Much of our removal culture requires the hard work of recovery, remembrance and renewal, with some things like excessive fear, sorrow and anger ... softened, forgiven or retired ... as possible. As tribes in various stages of recovery, the eighth prophesy speaks of progressive renewal ... that is ... not only language and cultural recovery but by the creation of new things that we may grow forward, fresh, inspired, healthy and strong.

It is sunrise. Enthusiasm and willingness call each one of us forward to be "breathed alive" even in the face of challenges, responsibilities, issues and limitation.

Let us remember: we are the sacred ... and to never forget.

Let us remember to greet the Gizes-Father Sky Sun and ask. "What would you have me know this day?" Then, consider making an offering: putting down some tobacco or spilling a few drops of *gapi* (coffee) or to simply "think" a thank you.

Let us remember that we came into this body by *Sekmekwe*, our Mother Earth, and that our heartbeat and the heartbeat of our Mother is the same. By the *de-waben* (drum) that



Bode'wadmi Nengo^sek Star Chart courtesy of Kyle Malott, Pokogan Band Potawatomi



Winter Maker Arrives, by Potawatomi artist Minisa Crumbo Halsey. The painting highlights traditional Anishnabe star knowledge. (Photo provided)

Many of our elders tell the story that we Neshnabé arrived upon our beautiful Sekmekwe (Mother Earth) by descent from the Mdodosenik, the Seven Sisters-Pleiades Constellation.

There are many, many origin stories that then begin with our descent as hot rocks onto our relatives: our Mother Sekmekwe, our Father Gizes who gave us fire, warmth and protection and Dbek-Gizes, our Grandmother Moon. These, the first, most beautiful and enduring gifts of Mamogosnan, the Creator.

The vision of Mamogosnan provided us with our future home and then “we came down” from Mdodosenik, also called “fiery sweat rocks.” This is how and why we honor the Spirit of this story as we two-legged began and continue to live and move within the marriage of Sekmekwe and Gizes.

resonance can be immediately recalled and remembered. Let us take up a drum or spoon a heartbeat on a cup of cacao or tea and raise a voice in greeting, song or prayer.

These things, done at any time ... day or night ... are good medicine. The Seven Grandfathers’ Teachings have shone a WAY by which we might live.

WE ARE ALIVE IN A LIVING WORLD.

May the following words, days and seasons guide, instruct, enliven and delight our Mother Earth walk for indeed, this is who we are and what we have ... until our time comes, and our name is called to take up that long canoe journey to the western path of Spirit.

AHO!

Neshnabé: THOSE LOWERED DOWN

Mdodosenik: the Seven Sisters-Pleiades Constellation

Local alliance continued...

food, clothing, personal care items and more. However, they would like to manage larger donations as well.

“There’s so much that we know we can do. We already have community members and churches that have reached out and said, ‘You are doing great things. How can I help?’” Ramirez said.

The sweat rocks constellation, the Seven Sisters of the Pleiades rise in the southeast after dusk and travel west during the night. During their peak in Boboon Gizes (winter) they climb high in the sky and disappear in the northwest before dawn. In the wiki Boboon-Gizes (late winter) and mamey Mnokmet (early spring), they will be visible for a few hours as they travel east to west across the southern sky. By these tracks in the sky the seasons have long been charted for planting, gathering, and harvesting the wild rice, hunting, fishing, winter storytelling and making sugar.

The stars are our relatives, and they have much to guide and teach us as we LOOK TO THE STARS.

Minisa wishes to thank Justin Neely, CPN Language Department and staff for all ongoing and outreach programs; Dolores and Don Neaseno Perrot; and Kyle Malott, Pokogan Band Language Department for his Bode’wadmi Nengo^sek Star Chart and gracious support. ♡

She said she’s grateful for Genty’s leadership. Many of the area’s unhoused have developed trust with Genty and visit the Homeless Resource Center.

“I think, forming the Homeless Alliance and then the Native American Alliance has helped so much,” Ramirez said.

For more information, visit cpn.news/workforce or call 405-878-3854. ♡



CPN Director of Housing Scott George is the first Osage tribal member to be nominated for an Oscar after composing "Wahzhazhe (A Song for My People)" for Killers of the Flower Moon.

CPN employee writes Oscar nominated song

Scott George has worked in Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Housing Department since 2005. Day-to-day, he works to help Tribal members as they navigate housing issues such as buying a home. This year, George also became the first Native American to be nominated for an Academy Award for Music (Original Song) and the first member of the Osage Nation to be nominated for an Oscar.

George wrote and composed the music and lyrics for "Wahzhazhe (A Song for My People)" from *Killers of the Flower Moon*, a Martin Scorsese-directed film based on a book by David Grann about the Osage Reign of Terror. The movie has garnered 10 nominations at the Oscars, including one for leading actress Lily Gladstone, who made history as the first Native American actress to be nominated.

Being nominated

The song was originally on the Oscar's shortlist, and George didn't expect it to go any further from there. In fact, when the Oscar nominations were announced Tuesday, Jan. 23, he was on his way to work.

"I was supposed to be at a meeting, and I had all my stuff, getting ready to walk out the door, and my wife said, 'Wait, they're supposed to announce it.' I

said, 'I can't wait, I've got to go,'" he said. "I got on the road, and my phone started blowing up."

When asked what his thoughts are on being nominated, he said he still hasn't quite grasped the reality of it.

"At this point, it's just shock and thankfulness," he said. "It's a weight I haven't felt yet. It hasn't really sunk in."

However, he did express gratitude that the song is being recognized the way it is.

"There's no orchestra. There are no string instruments or anything involved in this. It's just our voices and the drums. For somebody to sit there and think we're worthy of even being considered, that's pretty cool," he said.

Getting involved with the film

It all started with the Osage Nation Language Department, which worked with filmmakers to incorporate the Osage language into the movie. Director Martin Scorsese and actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Gladstone had all attended ceremonial dances while filming. Scorsese decided he wanted to bring that element into the movie at the end.

George's friend in the language department, Vann Bighorse, contacted him to let him know

what the filmmakers wanted, and they started to discuss how to go about making it happen.

Initially, he said, they didn't plan on being involved with the filming.

"What they saw was our dance, and our dances are ceremonial," George said. "So there was no way we were going to recreate that. Not for the movie."

In addition to the ceremonial nature of the dances, many of the Osage songs are borrowed from the Ponca Tribe, and many songs include names of individuals who have family still living.

"We knew those songs weren't appropriate for this situation," George said.

However, in talks with Scorsese's team, they decided on an idea that would work.

"We couldn't use the songs we sing all the time, so we had to create something," George said. "We went back and forth and talked about what we wanted to say in the song, making sure we had the words right, coming up with a tune that would carry it. And then we created two songs. Vann composed one and I composed one."

Ultimately, it was George's song that ended up in the movie.

Following the movie's release, George also found himself enlisted to help with the nomination process.

"There's a lot of paperwork I had to fill out to even get the song submitted. It had to be in written music, like notes and the whole works. I haven't read sheet music since fourth grade," George said. "We don't really regard ourselves as musicians. We're referred to by our people as drummers and singers, and that's pretty much how we identify ourselves."

Fortunately, a friend of his knows how to write music, and he was able to get the music in written form so they could submit it for consideration to be nominated.

Filming and premieres

As singers for the tribe, George and his wife Taveah were also involved in the filming of the scene where the Osage sing "Wahzhazhe" at the end of the movie.

He described practicing the scene the night before, then spending the next day filming.

"That same song we sang probably a dozen times, and the dancers danced around like it was the first time they'd done it, so they were getting tired," George said.

Once the movie was released, Osage tribal members also attended multiple premieres in Tulsa, New York and Los Angeles.

The Tulsa premiere was only for Osage tribal members, and George said it was hard to pay attention to the story under the circumstances.

"Pretty much all of us caught ourselves looking at the people we knew," he said. "In New York, the second time we saw it, we got to really see it."

For the premieres, George said Apple Studios sent limousines to pick everyone up and take them to the airport, then had staff at the hotels to greet them all and assist them during their stay.

"Apple treated us like kings," he said. "It was really amazing."

The Los Angeles premiere took place during the Hollywood Writer's Strike, so none of the actors were allowed to be present. However, George estimated that about 70 members of the Osage tribe were invited, and they were asked to sing on the red carpet and again inside the Dolby Theatre.

As for the movie itself, he said he thought they did a great job telling the story to the world, and he praised Gladstone especially for her role.

"As a Native American, you have feelings about what was done to us or how we were treated, and sometimes how we're still treated. I expected the movie to ignite that again and leave me with a bitter feeling, but it really didn't," he said. "I think Lily, to me, she captured what I remember that generation to be. I wasn't alive during that generation, but the generation after that, they still retained the way they responded to things and acted, how they talked and their mannerisms. I don't know how she captured it, but she did."

Overall, he said it has been an eventful summer with activities such as premieres added to his already busy daily life of family, full-time job, and singing at powwows.

It helped, he said, that the premieres were quick, one-day events. Still, he said after so much going on, there were days he and his wife just wanted to stay home.

"This morning, I needed to take my laptop down to a meeting, and I walked down there with my drumsticks instead of my laptop," he laughed. "I don't need my drumsticks until tomorrow. I've been a little scattered."

In addition to its use in the movie, George said the song will continue to be used by the Osage people.

"We have every intention of using that song later on," he added. "It serves two purposes, I guess, in that regard."

This year's Academy Awards, which took place at the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood, aired Sunday, March 10, on ABC, where "What Was I Made For" from *Barbie* won the Oscar in the Music (Original Song) category. George and other Osage singers performed during the awards ceremony. See them perform at cnn.com/2024/03/10/academy-awards-barbie-osage-singers/index.html. 🔥

Re-Elect Rep. Paul Wesselhöft, M.A., M.Div.

Paul is a fifth-generation Oklahoman, Tribal Elder, Poet, Author, and Great-Great-Great Grandson of Chief Abraham Burnett.

He was an elected Delegate to the 65th National Congress of American Indians.

While serving in the Oklahoma House of Representative for 12 years, Paul founded the 21-member Native American Caucus.

He is the founder/administrator of the active 4,800 member Facebook group, "Potawatomi Artists."

Paul is a highly decorated military veteran of 20 years, having served as a U.S. Army Airborne Ranger, a Chaplain and a Major officer, a Persian Gulf War combat veteran, and he served as a Sargent in the Vietnam War Era.

Rev. Paul Wesselhöft is a retired ordained Southern Baptist Chaplain having pastored four chapels.

Paul has been married to Judy for 48 Years, and is the father of CPN members, Justin, and Holly.

Your Representative is a proven, trusted leader and tribal elder worthy of your vote. His Indian name is, *Naganit* meaning Leader. He has been a leader from the beginning and is an experienced leader now.

Read about "Paul Wesselhöft" on Wikipedia.

"I would appreciate your vote by absentee ballot or at our festival. Thank you!"

(Paid for by Paul Wesselhöft)

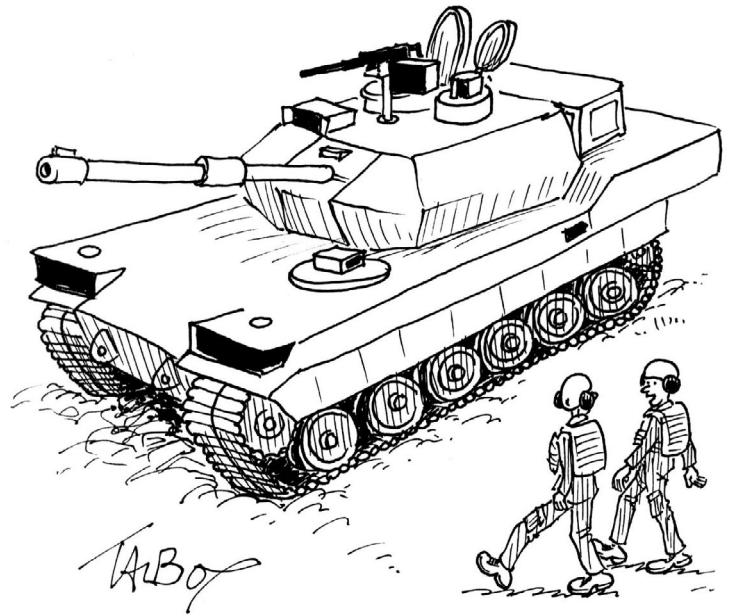
Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

I hope this report finds all our CPN veterans doing well and surviving earthquakes and winter weather. Our Citizen Potawatomi Nation Veterans Organization is anxiously looking forward to this year's events, parades, festivals and flag fold demonstrations at local schools. It never gets old ... but we do. We look forward to having more CPN veterans join us in participating. We have the best equipment to see to your comfort. I have acquired a 125cc Mini Jeep with flags to add to our parade equipment. In fair weather I even drive it to our monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN veterans and their families are welcome ... and you don't even have to be a member. It is a social event with food.

On a more serious note, I have a special interest in our CPN veterans' health. I try to keep our veterans informed of the help and needs. The Veteran's Affairs Department has made it their mission to provide improved care. They are continually working to improve and meet healthcare needs of veterans. If you have a specific health problem, they will do everything they can to meet your needs.

One female veteran has a story of beating cancer with support from the VA, learning the importance of vigilance, timely screenings and the impact of the VA's comprehensive care after a diagnosis of cancer. After a routine mammogram, she got a call for a follow-up appointment. The next day, she received another mammogram and ultrasound. She got a biopsy the same day. With hard



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decisions and a frightening diagnosis, the VA's system of care and navigators provided comprehensive support. Advice? Be your own advocate and get into VA's health care system early in order to be proactive and preventative.

Migwetch (Thank you)!

Our March CPN Veterans Organizations meeting will be held March 26 at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall with food and socializing.

Daryl Talbot, Commander
daryl.talbot75@outlook.com
405-275-1054 📞

APRIL 19TH, SHAWNEE TORNADO



If you know of someone that was impacted by the April 19th, Shawnee tornado and still have disaster related needs, please contact Catholic Charities (405) 465-3808



For more information:



United Way of Pottawatomie County

Higbee family history

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center provides resources to keep the Tribe's history safe and accessible for generations to come. One key way the Nation does this is through the CHC's archives and video interviews.

To highlight some of the archive's holdings, the *Hownikan* is featuring photographs and family history of every founding Citizen Potawatomi family. If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, and to schedule family interviews, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830.

Higbee-Potawatomi beginnings

The Higbee family's Potawatomi roots stretch back to Daniel Bourassa and his Potawatomi wife. The Bourassas lived in the St. Joseph River Valley, whose villages were led by Chief *Topinabee* (He Who Sits Quietly). Their daughter, Madeline, married Joseph Bertrand, a successful fur trader and business owner who lived near Lake Michigan.

Madeline and Joseph's daughter, Julia Justine, was born on May 25, 1823. She attended a small private school in the home of postmaster Squire Daniel C. Higbee. It was through Daniel Higbee that Julia met Daniel's brother, Alva.

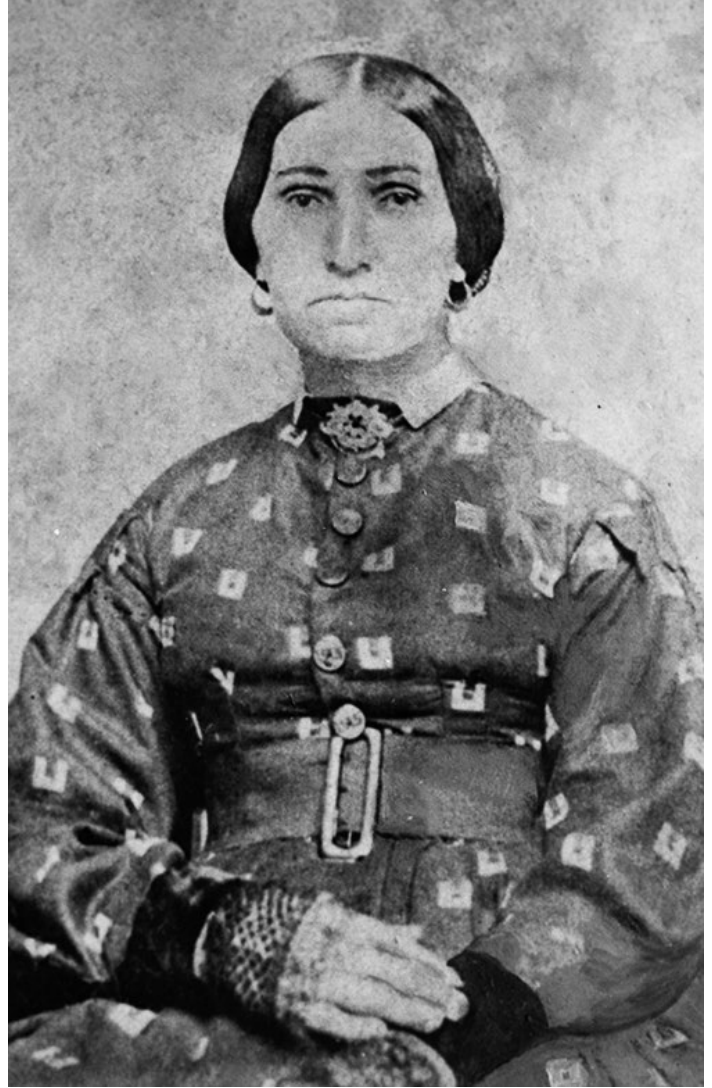
Many Potawatomi were forced to relocate west after the 1833 Treaty of Chicago. The treaty caused the Potawatomi to lose millions of acres of land. Julia, however, stayed in Michigan and married Alva on Oct. 4, 1848, before moving to the Potawatomi reservation in present-day Kansas in 1850. Julia's father, Joseph Bertrand, lived with the couple until about 1850.

Julia and Alva

Julia and Alva had nine children: Josephine L., Mary Anastasia, Joseph Bertrand, Lewis B., Robert A., Lucy and George as well as Theresa and Julia who passed away as infants. Alva worked as a carpenter, and the children attended school at the St. Marys Mission.

The family expected to live a peaceful life in Kansas, but settlers and the federal government upended those plans. The reservation's prime location along the California and Oregon trails and ongoing demand for land led to the Treaty of 1861. As a result of this treaty, the Potawatomi separated into two distinct groups. Some Potawatomi chose to receive a land allotment and potentially become U.S. citizens while others chose to remain in Kansas on an 11-square-mile reservation. The Higbees decided to receive allotments and become members of the Citizen Band Potawatomi.

Sadly, Julia passed away in 1866 due to pneumonia. One year later, the Citizen Potawatomi signed the Treaty of 1867, which provided the opportunity for



Julia Bertrand Higbee

Tribal members to sell land and in return, purchase a new reservation in present-day Oklahoma.

Following his second and third marriages, Alva returned to Kansas around 1882. When St. Marys incorporated as an official town in 1869, Alva became the town's first official mayor. Later he served as the police chief, and on Dec. 18, 1884, he sadly perished while attempting to put out a fire in a building.

Higbee children

Alva and Julia's daughter, Josephine, married Thomas Mainey (also spelled Maney). Mainey had moved to the United States from Ireland in 1861. He and Josephine wed on Feb. 23, 1868, in Kansas. They settled on a farm two miles west of St. Marys for many years before moving the farm to south of the river in Wabaunsee County. After many years of farming, Josephine and Thomas moved to St. Marys to retire.

Josephine's obituary paid tribute to her kind nature as she was "educated in St. Marys by the Madames of the Sacred Heart, now long departed. She was a woman who had well learned what Christian charity meant in its largest meaning. Her kindly ministrations to the sick in soul and body will long be remembered, and many that are now

gathered to their fathers no doubt had reason in their last hours to thank this kindly woman for moments of life made easier by her love in doing the master's work."

Julia and Alva's daughter Mary Anastasia married Joseph LaReau in St. Marys on July 25, 1871, and all seven of their children were born around the St. Mary's Mission in Kansas. In 1896, the family moved to present-day Oklahoma near Wanette. Mary Anastasia walked on Jan. 10, 1919, in Wanette.

Joseph and Mary Anastasia's offspring quickly became prominent members of their new community. Joseph Alva (Alvie) LaReau, the oldest son, started a livery stable and feed store, and Francis Casimir LaReau (Cass) was a merchant in Wanette for many years.

Lewis Higbee lived briefly in New York before heading to Bertrand, Michigan, where he met and married Carrie Swain. The couple moved to St. Marys where they had several children. In July 1893, they settled on his 240-acre Potawatomi allotment in Indian Territory near the current border of Pottawatomie and Cleveland counties. Lewis established the community originally named Higbee. A few years later, he sold a portion of his allotment to James P. Corbett, and the town changed its name to Corbett, Oklahoma. Lewis also served as deputy sheriff for a few years.

According to Lewis' obituary, "Mr. Higbee was one of the sturdy pioneers of this part of the state and of Cleveland county."

Joseph Bertrand Higbee married Jenny K. Fuller and eventually settled in Lexington, Oklahoma. According to family records, they adopted a daughter. Joseph

was devoted to serving the country. An April 21, 1928, article in the El Reno Daily Democrat stated that Joseph became the oldest volunteer from Oklahoma in the U.S. Army during World War I. He served two years at Camp Meigs with the 16th Company, Quartermaster Corps.

Robert Higbee and Ida Swearingen married in Kansas before moving to Indian Territory near Okmulgee in the late 1890s, and they had eight children.

Lucy Higbee wed John Louraine, and the two settled on her allotment near Lexington, Oklahoma. In 1908, she remarried Gates Angel, and she worked as a nurse in the Lexington area for many years.

A Lexington Leader article published on May 26, 1905, said the Higbees even helped bring early telephone lines to the rural areas of their community. "The Canadian river rose while they were stringing up the lines, and one of the Higbees took off his clothes and swam the river to the Rosedale side with a telephone wire, to get it across," the article read.

A Higbee family story revealed Arthur Higbee was the individual who swam across the river, and his efforts caught the attention of Christene Elizabeth Friend. They married two years later, and she later served as the telephone operator.

George Albert Higbee married Lydia Eliza Shoemaker Smith in October 1891, and they spent most of their lives in Indiana. George moved away from St. Marys, Kansas, after attending boarding school. Together the couple had 11 children: Raymond, Luella, Hazel, Francis, Lillian, Marie, Ada, Genevieve, Celia, Alvin and Glenn.



Robert Higbee, wife Ida, and children

Throughout the last two centuries, the Higbee family has continued to grow and expand, building lives throughout Oklahoma and beyond. During the Great Depression, many Citizen Potawatomi sold their allotments and belongings to seek a new life out West, including numerous Higbee descendants. Today, the family continues the Higbee legacy, serving as teachers, medical professionals, CPN employees, Tribal leaders and more.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center provides resources to keep the Tribe's history safe and accessible for generations to come. One key way the Nation does this is through the CHC's archives and family interviews. If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830. Schedule interviews online at portal.potawatomi.org. Learn more about the Family Reunion Festival at cpn.news/festival, and find research resources online at potawatomiheritage.com. 🔥

ADVERTISED LEASE SALE 40

NOTICE OF SALE OF DRY LAND FARMING AND/OR GRAZING LEASES TO BE HELD MAY 16, 2024 AT THE CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE SERVICES FOR THE SALE OF FARMING AND GRAZING LEASES ON TRUST RESTRICTED INDIAN LAND TO BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 25, CFR 162.

Any lease granted herein will be for grazing and dryland farming ONLY. The Lease does not grant use of existing houses or the right to place mobile homes upon the leased premises. The Lease does not grant lessee the right to hunt or fish on the property.

ALLOTMENTS WITH LEASES STARTING 1/1/2025			
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	
821 900 Madeline Denton	10	E/2 SE/4 SW/4 SE/4 & W/2 SW/4 SE/4 SE/4 of Section 6, Township 7N, Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, Oklahoma	1
821 S 62-E Josette Bennett	30	E/2 NE/4 NW/4 & E/2 W/2 NE/4 NW/4 of Section 17, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	2
821 84 Joseph Epeteska	80	E/2 NW/4 Section 24, Township 6 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	3
821 97 Clarrissa Mars	80	E/2 NW/4 of Section 7, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	4
821 S 116 John Baptiste Vasseur	80	E/2 SW/4 Section 18, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	5
821 395-C Pean-ish or Peter Curley	40	SE/4 NW/4 of Section 4, Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	6
821 S 510 Rozette Trombla	80	NE/4 SW/4 & NW/4 SE/4 of Section 25, Township 8 North, Range 1 East of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, Oklahoma	7
821 806 Ellen Cummings	80	W/2 SE/4 of Section 36, Township 8N, Range 4E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	8
821 809 Frank Davis	80	N/2 NE/4 of Section 15, Township 7 North, Range 4 East of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	9

ALLOTMENTS WITH LEASES STARTING 1/1/2026			
ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	
821 900 Madeline Denton	80	E/2 NE/4 of Section 7, Township 7N, Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, Oklahoma	10
821 367 Peter Tescier	80	N/2 NW/4 of Section 23, Township 7N, Range 1 East of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County Oklahoma	11
821 219 Alexander Rhodd	24.73	Lot 99= S/2 NE/4 of Section 33, Township 8N, Range 5E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	12
821 1191 Frank Wilamette	40	NE/4 NE/4 Section 11, Township 7N, Range 4E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	13
821 714 Cora Gregson	80	NE/4 SE/4 & SE/4 NE/4 of Section 26, Township 7N, Range 2E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma	14

These properties **MUST** be leased together

ALLOTMENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION	
821 S 825 Lydia E. Riordan	240	N/2 SE/4 & NE/4 of Section 16, Township 8N, Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, Oklahoma	15
821 S 826 Robert James Riordan	80	E/2 SE/4 of Section 9, Township 8N, Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, Oklahoma	15
821 S 827 Grace Riordan	80	E/2 SW/4 of Section 16, Township 8N, Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, Oklahoma	15

If you would like to request a bid packet, email Tonya Turnpaugh at tonya.turnpaugh@potawatomi.org or call 405-395-0113

From the executives



John "Rocky" Barrett Tribal Chairman

Bozho nikan, (Hello, my friend,)

There is nothing I enjoy more than leading our Nation, but it is always a special honor when I get to celebrate victories with our Tribal Members and organizations in the Nation.

Most of you probably watched the Super Bowl as the Kansas City Chiefs won their second straight Super Bowl and third in the past four years. I hope all of you know that the center for the Chiefs is Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member Creed Humphrey. Creed, a member of the Peltier family, is a Shawnee High School graduate who we watched as he left his hometown school to become an All American at the University of Oklahoma. In the past two seasons, Creed has finished the season with a Super Bowl Championship.

Last year, he came home to Shawnee where I got to help honor him and recognize his contribution to the city and his hometown school.

Creed represents his family and the Nation extremely well. He was incredibly patient and kind as he signed autographs and posed for photos with the many young fans who filled the stadium waiting to hear from him and waited in long lines to meet him.

Congratulations to Creed and thank you for letting all of CPN celebrate with you.

We also had a celebration locally for the Tribe's own basketball team. As you all know, we had a good season in our first year in The Basketball League. But in our second season last year, the Potawatomi Fire won the TBL National Championship, beating teams from cities like Seattle and St. Louis.

This Tribally-owned team brought honor to the Nation and to the city of Shawnee. We recently honored last year's team members in a ring ceremony where players, coaches and staff received rings to celebrate last year's championship.

The great news is that Coach Mark Dannhoff and General Manager David Qualls have brought back most of the outstanding players from last year's Fire squad and have added several players who are expected to make last year's championship team even better.

The Fire's third season began on March 1 and will continue through May 25 when the playoffs begin.

Hopefully, the team is still battling in the playoffs when our annual Reunion time comes around again.

Just as Creed Humphrey represents the Nation well as a Tribal member in the National Football League, the Potawatomi Fire honor the Nation by demonstrating the qualities of a top-notch organization from the top down.

Hopefully their playoff schedule allows many of you who are planning to come to our annual Reunion to have a chance to see one of the games and celebrate with us.

These are just as a few of the many reasons you can always be a proud to be a part of CPN.

Megwetch (Thank you),

John "Rocky" Barrett | Geweoge (He Leads Them Home) | Tribal Chairman



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION **HEALTH SERVICES**

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Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

Bozho (Hello),

I have been reading some articles from when our legislative process began with the new constitution of 2007. During the CPN Annual Festival in June of 2008, most of our legislators had been seated except for the runoff election of District 1. I made several statements about our legislators' three-day stay at headquarters. I said that it was an amazing time to mix and mingle with our elected officials. I noted that our legislators seemed quite impressed with CPN. I knew for sure that CPN administrators and existing elected officials were impressed with our new legislature.

Our employees were very eager to meet the new legislators. It was an exciting time for everyone. To go from five business committee members to the 16-member legislature seemed like a dream come true. It also was a busy time. Each legislator had to choose an office back in their home state. CPN Information

Technology personnel were heavily involved due to the new laptops being distributed and Wi-Fi accommodation established for their offices. So much to do and so many Tribal members to contact. It was a monumental achievement for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and certainly enormous footwork for the legislators.

Ironically, I made note of one of the discussion topics during the three days, which was the importance of maintaining the same or accelerated level of service to our Tribal members. Each year with increased enrollment, the challenge remains a concern. I suppose we discussed that topic yesterday, today and we will continue the discussion tomorrow, so to speak. I think it is a bit amusing since I may leave the impression that I have a bit of anxiety about the subject.

The review of the articles from that time in 2008 seems to be light years away. The Tribe has made so much progress since that time. Our legislators have proven the constitutional change in 2007 means everything to our Tribe today. Our legislators have given our membership a whole new contact level with the Tribe. The legislators have taken the government to our people. They have provided current information, the possibility of meeting and interacting with constituents, the accessibility to network by social media. Our legislators have completed the circle in reaching out to Tribal members. It is a much more effective means of communication than what we had prior to 2008.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Linda Capps | *Segenakwe* (Black Bird Woman) | Vice-Chairman
Work: 405-275-3121 | Cell: 405-650-1238 | lcapps@potawatomi.org

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D. Wayne Trousdale Secretary/Treasurer

Bozho (Hello),

Hopefully everyone is surviving the winter months and the unusual weather patterns that have occurred so far this year. Oklahoma is certainly no exception to unusual weather. Just like the old saying goes, "If you don't like the weather in Oklahoma just stick around for 15 minutes and it will change." We have already had our first serious cold snap and I am sure that there are more in store for this winter.

Financial audits are on my mind as I pen this article. January is the beginning of all the outside audit firms coming to the administration building to work with our accounting team to start composing the various audits that the Nation has done to ensure that our finances are above reproach. This is an exceptionally busy time for Mary Chisholm, our CFO, and her staff as they not only have the daily accounting activities that are performed for our government programs and

our business enterprises but also the added work duties that are a result of the audit firms being present. We certainly appreciate the dedication and work ethic of not just the accounting department but of all employees of CPN. We are very fortunate at CPN to have our employees, and their value is seen every day at the Nation.

Speaking of financial audits, you should know that we have four major entities audited every year. Those four are the Trust Fund, the Community Development Corporation, Sovereign Bank, and the Consolidated Annual Financial Report, which is an audit of the Nation, its governmental programs, and the enterprises. These are not the only audits that are performed but these are the most significant.

Sovereign Bank is audited, as every FDIC bank is required to be audited, because it is a legal requirement. Sovereign Bank is also required to have regular examinations by the Treasury Department of the United States government to verify that we are being managed responsibly and deserve to have the faith of the general public as a depository institution. Your Sovereign Bank has experienced very successful financial results and has also had very favorable examinations. The bank would love to have any of our Tribal members' banking business in both deposits and possible loans. Utilizing our bank has never been easier for our members given the online advancements that have been made in recent years.

The Trust Fund investments have been managed by the Nation since 1996. This is the year when the Federal government allowed the Tribes to withdraw their money and manage their own affairs after years of mismanagement and poor financial returns. CPN earnings on the Trust Fund investments have consistently bested the government alternative. The audit of the Trust Fund is a CPN constitutional requirement and is performed on an annual basis.

The Community Development Corporation or CDC is very similar to a banking institution. The main point of its mission is to make financing available to a more credit-challenged population. This is an extremely important mission given that access to credit is necessary to conduct business everywhere in the United States. Being able to provide credit in economically depressed areas is vital to success, and Native Americans represent some of the population's greatest need.

The Consolidated Annual Financial Report, CAFR, is the largest audit as it represents virtually all the Nation's assets. The report is several hundred pages long and is full of everything financial. This report verifies the annual performance of both the governmental activities and the activities of the Tribal enterprises. The Nation's financial performance is measured against the annual Tribal budgets. We have had very favorable comparisons in this audit.

I should also note that the CPN accounting department has for 34 years in a row earned the Certificate of Achievement from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. As you can tell, we take accounting and audits very seriously here at the Nation. It is of paramount importance to safeguard the assets of the Nation and it is not only my responsibility but also my pleasure to serve you as your Secretary/Treasurer. Thank you for allowing me this honor.

Migwetch (Thank you),

D. Wayne Trousdale | *Netemgiwse (Hunts First)* | Secretary/Treasurer | 405-275-3121 | dtrousdale@potawatomi.org

VISIT US ONLINE

POTAWATOMI.ORG

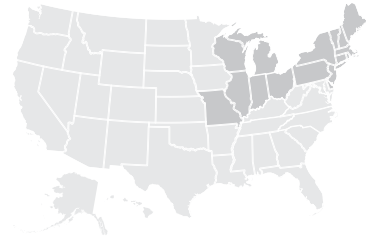
From the legislature



Alan Melot District 1

Bozho (Hello)!

What a lovely time we've had with the loom beading class that Laura Hewuse has led over the past few months! Laura and I had discussed how we could bring more exposure to cultural activities to District 1, and after going back and forth for a couple of months, we decided that teaching loom beading would be a good place to start. We do not live close to each other, and after several televideo conversations, decided to host meetings via Zoom. We are both motivated to connect people with our heritage and culture. It has been difficult, over the decades, to stay in touch when so many of us live so far away from CPN offices in Oklahoma!



About 15 people signed up for our first group, and we were able to supply a starter loom, the thread and needles, and the beads for our first project. I was unsure of how an online group would do over the holidays, and while some folks were unable to meet with us and have delayed participation, others have joined, and we now have about 25 people who have learned to loom!

We have created friendships, laughed together and learned together. In February, we were joined by Justin Neely, who told us winter stories in both Potawatomi and English. That was a real treat, and we were joined by quite a few other folks who weren't part of the loom classes. This project has touched many people. I've been really pleased with the participants, who have ranged from 11 years old to some of our wisest. I expect this effort to continue on for many years, passing knowledge and culture on to the next generation, keeping our people connected with both the past and the future. As many have told me, being Potawatomi isn't just about our history, like some sort of re-enactment, it's a living culture that goes on in each of our hearts.

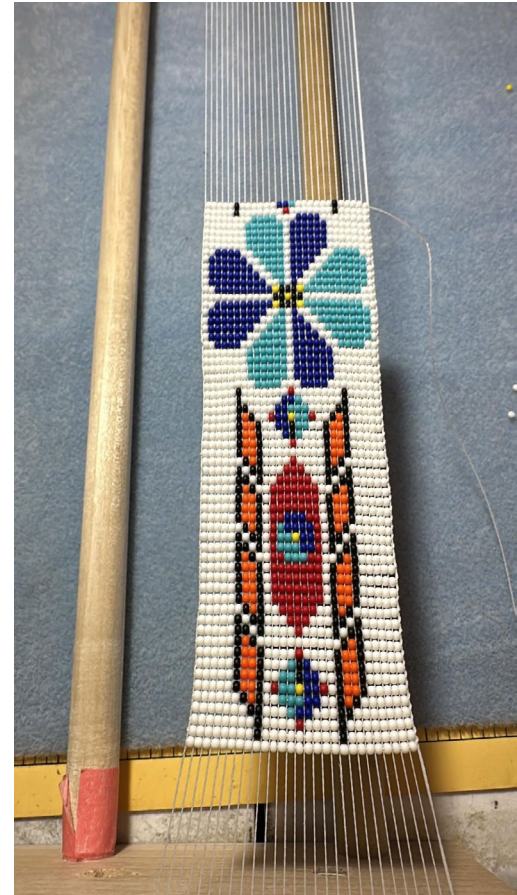
Finally, I hope that by now you've seen or heard about our Chicago meeting on April 6. We plan to meet around 2 p.m. at the Michigan Avenue Bridge House frieze sculpture of The Battle of Fort Dearborn. Following that, we will move to the Chicago Architectural Center. We will meet there from around 3 till 8 p.m., with a meal served around 5 p.m. I look forward to seeing you all there, as I've asked Sharon Hoogstraten to talk to us about her landmark photography project and book *Dancing for our Tribe*. I'm pretty excited about this meeting and hope to see you there. **Please RSVP to me by March 15.** My contact information is below.

As always, I hope this finds you well, and I look forward to seeing you all somewhere this summer.

Your friend,

Alan Melot | Legislator, District 1 | alan.melot@potawatomi.org
608 S. Sergeant | Joplin, MO 64801 | 417-312-3307

Loom work by Rosanah Foster. Finished lanyard and a work in progress. So beautiful!



Beadwork is pictured in progress on a loom.

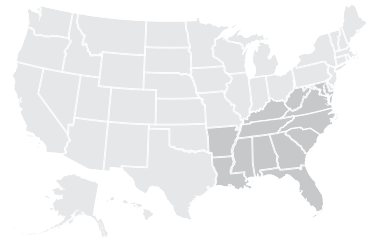


Eva Marie Carney District 2

Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),

RSVPs invited; bring your art entries

I look forward to seeing folks at our meeting and lunch in Rogers, Arkansas next month. Date, time and location are included in the reprinted invitation. We will be trying something new — a CPN Citizen Art Show and Contest. The three categories are Fine Arts, Crafts, and 12 and Under. Winners will have the opportunity to speak about their work. I cannot wait to see what is shared with us. Please RSVP today.



Trip to Chicago and South Bend for The Kwek Society

I recently had a quick trip north (36 hours) to South Bend to accept for The Kwek Society (kweksociety.org), a generous check and five-year pledge of support from the Four Winds Casino South Bend, which is owned and operated by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. What a beautiful casino and hotel complex, and what generous hosts! Like our own Nation, The Pokagon Band invests in the community and the region, and in organizations that focus on the needs of Native people. I was among the group of 12 nonprofit leaders who were presented checks totaling \$435,000. I was particularly excited to be in the company of Bodwéwadmimwen Éthë ték, Inc. (bodwe.org), which focuses on Potawatomi language preservation programs. You can read more about the event and the recipient organizations at cpn.news/Contributions. I was excited to spread the word about our work to end period poverty through an interview played on ABC57- South Bend, which you can see a bit of and read about by visiting cpn.news/SouthBendinterview.



Pokagon Band January 2024 presentation of checks to local and national nonprofits



CPN DISTRICT 2 MEETING & LUNCH
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024 | 11AM TO 2:30PM
Church Hall, Rogers First Church of the Nazarene
4911 W Pleasant Grove Rd, Rogers, Arkansas
Directions can be found at rogersfirst.com. Children are welcome!
Please RSVP to evamariecarney@gmail.com
or leave a voicemail at 888-849-1484

Representing CPN within Home Depot

CPN citizen Bill Anderson, an Anderson descendant and Senior UX Designer at The Home Depot, working out of Atlanta, recently shared that the company has established the Native American Associate Resource Group (ARG). Bill is a founding member of the group. He notes that the group welcomes all associates who share mutual interests in Native American celebration, education, development and outreach, and that its primary objective is to cultivate a sense of community within The Home Depot while fostering cultural awareness and respect.



Sarah Bradham Worthan, Ph.D.

ARG's first event, held late last year, focused on education about tribal culture and traditions and featured Chickasaw and Cherokee Nation representatives along with Bill, representing our Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Bill currently is participating in our *Mdamen* program (cpn.news/mdamenprogram) for his own growth and as a means to bring more Potawatomi teachings to ARG participants.

Prize-winning CPN scholar

Proud aunt, District 2's Barbara Fair Little (a DeGraff descendant), shared the news that her niece, CPN citizen Sarah Worthan, has been awarded the prestigious 2023 Zuckerkandl Prize. The prize recognizes the top paper published in the *Journal of Molecular Evolution*. Sarah is a postdoctoral researcher in the Behringer lab in Biological Sciences at Vanderbilt

University. She describes her paper as “serving as a cautionary guide to those performing fitness assays following an adaptive laboratory evolution approach. We found that very small changes to the execution of the fitness assay led to varying results, and we were eager to share these insights with the community. The fact that our paper was chosen for this prestigious prize indicates that the editorial panel agrees that disseminating findings such as these are of great importance.” You can read more about her work at cpn.news/SarahWorthan; I admit that most of the explanation provided went over my head!

Please keep your family news and be in contact!

Migwetch (Thank you),

Eva Marie Carney | *Ojindiskwe* (Bluebird woman) | ecarney@potawatomi.org
evamariecarney.com | evamariecarney@gmail.com | 5877 Washington Blvd.
PO Box 5591 | Arlington, VA 22205 | Toll Free: 866-961-6988



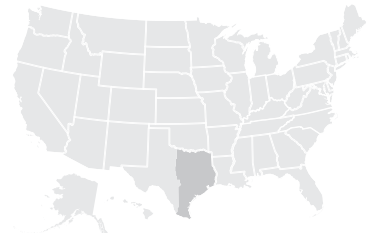
Bob Whistler District 3

Bozho ginwa (Hello everyone),

D3 Meetings

Our first meeting for 2024 will be Saturday, April 20, in Tyler, Texas, at the Historical Aviation Memorial Museum, 150 Airport Drive, # 2-7, Tyler, TX 75704. Their phone is 903-402-1945. This is the original airport terminal in Tyler and is located just past the new terminal. We will meet from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch and water will be provided. A post card will be mailed out with the information. Please RSVP to rwhistler@potawatomi.org with the number in your party.

The Dallas meeting that I had on my agenda for April 13 had to be postponed because the Dallas Native Care Center is undergoing remodeling and will not be completed until sometime after June. We will hold a meeting there when the facility becomes available.



Jaune Quick-to-See Smith

Those of you who really like modern art and live in the Seattle area are in for a treat. Jaune Quick-to-See Smith is a citizen of the Montana Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation. The Fort Worth Modern Art Museum hosted approximately 120 of her artistic items for roughly three months. The exhibit closed on Jan. 29 and is supposedly making Seattle, Washington, the next stop. Modern art is not my primary artistic interest, but her works were very well done. There was a small gallery of drawings and prints called the Custer Series. A photo accompanies this. Another very large item made of acrylic, fabric, charcoal, paper and newspaper on canvas had a bison with the word SPAM beneath the bison. The artist is noting the fact that the bison was once a primary source of food for our ancestors. Through the use of disease and deliberate, indiscriminate killing of the bison, it has now resulted in many of us resorting to our primary nutrition coming from canned and processed foods represented by SPAM. SPAM in particular is a staple item on many of the reservations today. I have included a photo of this canvas also. I was fortunate enough to be invited to a private showing after hours and thoroughly enjoyed the exhibit. Her exhibit is a five-decade memory map collection of her drawings, prints, paintings and sculptures. For those of you near modern art museums, be on the alert for a possible arrival of the exhibit where you live. It will be a sight you will really enjoy.



CO (carbon monoxide) poisoning

Summer will soon be upon us, and many may find time to be out on a motorboat. In the winter we think about carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning due to an auto running in a closed garage or some other gasoline engine being used indoors without thinking of the

potential danger. Boats with enclosed cabins may also be a threat for CO poisoning, especially if you have an internal gasoline engine. Under very heavy throttle, the exhaust may leach back into the cabin. As a safety precaution, if you have a boat whose cabin is enclosed you may want to keep a small hatch open for cross ventilation. As just general information, CO concentration at its source for a gasoline engine is 10,000 to 100,000 PPM. Inhaling just 200 PPM may result in headaches within two to three hours. While very unlikely on a boat, but very likely in a closed room, 6,400 PPM may result in death within 15 minutes. Double that amount will result in death in less than three minutes. I don't mean to be bringing negative information to you, but where there is potential danger, we simply need to be aware.

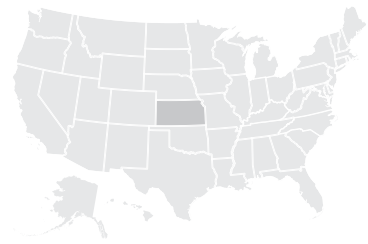
Migwetch for the honor of serving and representing District 3. I am honored that you trust me to represent your interests. If you have questions, I am just an email or phone call away.

Nagech (Later),

Bob Whistler | *Bmashi* (He Soars) | rwhistler@potawatomi.org | cpn3legislator@yahoo.com
1516 Wimberly Ct. | Bedford, TX 76021 | 817-229-6271 | cpndistrict3.com



Jon Boursaw District 4 Potawatomi Clans



In my assortment of miscellaneous stuff, I recently found a small pamphlet that describes what constitutes a clan, and particularly a Potawatomi clan. I found this information to be very interesting as I am the descendant of two Great-Great-Grandfathers. Both were Potawatomi, but from what clan: Joseph N. Bourassa's family was known to be of the Bear clan, while Lewis H. Ogee's family was part of the Thunder clan.

What clan is my family? I get asked that question frequently. I must admit that I am not an authority on Citizen Potawatomi clans, but here is what I've learned from reading that small pamphlet.

Clans were normally formed around a particular family and related extensions, normally through marriage. Typically, the clan affiliation was from a common ancestor through the male line of the family. In some cases, the individual was linked to their mother's father, which provided a wider network of kin to interact with as needed. This was also accentual as the clans were exogamous, meaning individuals could not marry a person of the same clan. Normally this resulted in the couple going to live with the husband's clan. This intermarriage of the clans created links between different villages and these links were both reinforced and encouraged by trade and other bonds. These bonds existed not only within the Potawatomi clans but also with nearby related Ottawa (Odawa) and Chippewa (Ojibwe) villages.

Some of the Tribe's oldest clans are the Bear, Bird, Crane, Deer, Fish, Loon and Marten.

- Bear Clan members were the protectors of the people. They were war chiefs and warriors. As village protectors they also learned which roots, bark and plants could be used to treat the people.
- Bird Clan represented the spiritual leaders of the people and gave the nation its well-being and its highest development of the spirit.
- Origin of the Crane Clan comes from the sharp, piercing sound of the Crane. Clan members were recognized as famous speakers.
- Deer Clan members were given the power of pacifists and were also known as poets and artistic people.
- Fish Clan members were teachers and scholars and represented wisdom. They were also known for having a long life and baldness in old age.
- The Loon Clan along with the Crane Clan were given the power of Chieftainship.
- Marten Clan people were hunters, food gatherers and warriors. Members of the clan also served as pipe bearers and message carriers for the Chiefs.

For the most part, the original force and power of the clan system has diminished to a degree of almost non-existence. However, among some Potawatomi, the clan relationships are still held in high regard and are a matter of pride and respect. Clan symbols are sometimes still used on grave headstones to mark their lineage.

My Indian name *Wetase Mkoh* (Brave Bear), given to me by Chairman Barrett, recognizes my military career and for being a descendant of the Bear clan.

Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

Dates for the next two Elder Potlucks held in Rossville at noon are:

March 8	Corned Beef and Cabbage	RSVP by the 5th
April 12	Goulash	RSVP by the 9th

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Tracy at 785-584-6171.

Contact Information

If you are not receiving emails from me, it is because I do not have your current email address or what I have is incorrect. All you need to do is email me your email address.

Megwetch (Thank you),

Jon Boursaw | Wetase Mkoh (Brave Bear) | jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org
2007 SW Gage Blvd. | Topeka, KS 66604 | 785-608-1982
Office Hours: Tuesday 9-11 a.m. | Thursdays 3-5 p.m. | Other times as requested



Gene Lambert District 5

Greetings,

Good day to all. We're going into our third month of 2024, in case you didn't think about it. I still feel like I am on a sled headed down Mt. Everest.

This month has brought about personal life experiences with the veterans in our world that keep us safe. We always wish them health, wealth and happiness, but do we really realize what they have done for us and, further, what they continue to do?

My stepdad of 40-plus years, Virgil Balsley of Clearlake, California, brought this question to the forefront with his 100th birthday veteran prisoner of war status. You cannot help but wonder how many have been held captive and under the worst conditions imaginable with a heart full of willingness to protect us. The stories are sometimes gruesome, yet many stay silent about their experience.

Being Native American, I also started to research how many prisoners of war we have today and the Native community that held steadfast and true protecting this country. I have said many times "More Native Americans fought in WWII per capita than any other single group of American men and women."

To bring that further home, I started to research those recorded in history and discovered the famous picture we see.

Corporal Ira Hamilton Hayes (Pima, 1923–1955) remains one of the best-known American Indians to serve in World War II. In 1945, Hayes was one of six servicemen who raised the American flag during the Battle of Iwo Jima in the South Pacific — a moment captured in a celebrated photograph (Hayes appears on the far left).

We had many famous American Indians who gave up their lives as well.

Pascal Cleatus Poolaw Sr. served this country through three wars and gave up his life in Vietnam. Poolaw has been called America's most decorated American Indian Soldier with 42 medals and citations. Among his medals are four Silver Stars and five Bronze Stars.

The Japanese had broken all the codes sent over the radio waves. The Marines were desperate to find a secure way to communicate vital information with precious little time. After several successful tests, the Navajo language was approved as a communication code.

There were other code talkers from other nations. Navajo was the most recognized because of a movie.

Native Americans from more than 50 tribes served in every military service during World War II, and in many roles supporting the war effort from the Home Front as well. (Image courtesy of the 45th Infantry Division Museum).

Corporal Ira Hamilton Hayes, far left



American Indians made up about one-fifth of the 45th, including three who received the Medal of Honor: Jack Montgomery (Cherokee, 1917–2002), Van T. Barfoot (Choctaw, 1919–2012) and Ernest Childers.

Much of the information here has been taken from research through Wikipedia, Google and other sources. There is by far more than one could capture in a 600-word article. I highly recommend you take the time to look at our history and discover the pride and service we have dedicated to the United States of America in times of trouble even after the lack of acceptance of our ways.

There is a T-shirt you can find showing many natives gathered around the lands saying, "We always knew it was worth fighting for." IT IS! SO VOTE.

In the meantime, we will pray we never have to go through another full-fledged war to maintain our democracy and self-determination.

Watch for invitations for the Arizona meeting in April, 2024. Love you all and please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist.

Personal Regards,

Gene Lambert (Eunice Imogene Lambert) | Butterfly Woman | glambert@potawatomi.org
270 E Hunt Highway Ste 229 | San Tan Valley, AZ 85143 | Cell: 480-228-6569 | Office: 480-668-0509



Rande K. Payne District 6

Bozho Nikanek (Hello friends),

Land comes in many forms. Developed, undeveloped. Inhabitable, uninhabitable. Occupied, unoccupied. But no matter what form, in today's world, virtually every square foot of land has been laid claim to by someone.

We've heard land referred to as Mother Earth, giver of life. From it we were raised and to it we will return. She provides everything our earthly bodies need to survive. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, shelter, clothing, medicine, etc.

Our ancestors understood the value of land and many of them gave their lives to keep it. It was considered sacred and to be protected as an inheritance for generations to follow. From it all life flowed.

In the old world of our ancestors, life on earth was in balance. Sustainability wasn't a buzzword or something to achieve. Everything was sustainable as it was. The idea of seven generations is the epitome of sustainability. Sustainability happened organically out of love and respect and out of relationship with the Creator.

The world we live in today is very different than the world of our ancestors. Many things have changed. But the one thing that hasn't changed is the value of land. And while the value of land hasn't changed, the way we value it has. We must still take care of it and do our best to preserve all our natural resources. The value of land today is measured monetarily in dollars and cents. The United States is a very powerful country primarily because of the land it possesses or occupies. We are fortunate to live in a country where we can own land individually, corporately or as a Native American Tribe.

Some may question or misunderstand our Tribal leadership's use of Tribal resources for the purpose of obtaining land. Yes, the land in Oklahoma that was given to us was perhaps in exchange for the land that was taken from us in the Great Lakes region, and it certainly makes no sense that we would have to buy land that was already given to us. But that's where we are in the world today. I think we are doing the best we can to claw our way back to the powerful Nation we once were. Land ownership greatly improves our ability to ensure that we as a people will remain for generations to come.

The purchase of the Oklahoma City bank building was far more than just a sound financial decision. That purchase and the advantages it creates for us to compete in today's world are enormous. Instead of paying rent to someone else for the space our bank occupies, we will now be paying ourselves and have complete control of that cost. And instead of us having to pay for the mortgage on the building by ourselves, we will have tenants that will pay rent, which reduces our overall cost and the amount of time to achieve outright ownership. At that point it is an enormous revenue center.

In the long run, it will only help to further increase our leverage to influence Oklahoma state legislation to benefit not only our Tribe but other Oklahoma tribes as well. And it seems that the attacks on our sovereignty just keep coming. Our ability to survive these challenges is greatly increased when we have the resources to fight back.

Hold closely the rich culture and knowledge our past generations have given us. Use them to guide us in our world today. Preserve them for the generations to come. This is how we remain. *Joganoganan...*

Wisdom from the Word: "Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" Deuteronomy 4:6

Nagetch (Later),

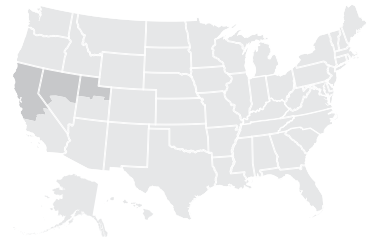
Rande K. Payne | *Mnedo Gabo* | rande.payne@potawatomi.org | 31150 Road 180 | Visalia, CA 93292-9585 | 559-999-5411



Mark Johnson District 7

Bozho nikanek (Hello friends),

Plans are currently underway for the Family Reunion Festival to be held in Shawnee again this year from June 28-30. The 2024 Honored Families are Darling, Hardin, Higbee, Levier, Lewis, Nadeau, Negahnquet, Pambogo and Smith. It is never too soon to secure rooms and travel for your trip to Shawnee. Some of the highlights of the festival are always the Hand Games on Friday night and in-person voting and the General Council Meeting on Saturday, along with the Grand Entry on Saturday evening where we honor our families and heritage. The arena has a dress code. Women should keep their legs and shoulders covered by wearing ankle-length skirts and a shirt that conceals the shoulders as well as carry a shawl, and men should wear slacks and a ribbon shirt. Everyone should wear moccasins or close-toed shoes and move clockwise around the arena. It would be great to start working on a set of regalia to wear during Grand Entry. Many classes and cultural events occur throughout the festival. More information can be found on the Tribal website at cpn.news/festival.



Winters are always a time of change, as Mother Earth takes that first long drink of water after the long hot summer days out west, the grass and plants take on a deeper shade of green and some head off to take a nap waiting for spring. The fall calves grow fast as their mothers put on weight that will help sustain them when the long, hot summer returns. And the cycle of life continues just as it has since time immemorial. Including us humans, this month marks a year since the passing of my mother and a month since the passing of my brother Michael, a gentle and caring soul who led a simple life filled with love. A quote that I heard once and held onto was "In the passing of elders, we witness the chapters of wisdom closing, but their legacy remains etched in the hearts and minds of those they touched, guiding us forward with the light of their teachings."

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always, give me a call, and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have or provide you with additional information you may need to access Tribal benefits that are available to you. Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and district.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Mark Johnson | *Wisk Mtek* (Strong as a Tree) | 559-351-0078 | mark.johnson@potawatomi.org



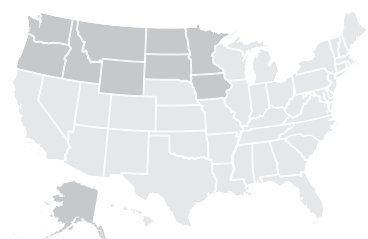
Dave Carney District 8

Bozho, jayek (Hello, everyone),

I hope this edition of the *Hownikan* finds all in District 8 healthy and doing well.

This is the dreary weather part of the year where everything looks a little dingy and some folks get depressed. Whenever I've traveled to Oklahoma and have complained about the heat, locals tell me that they couldn't live in all the rain we get six months out of the year. Well, about mid-March, I get their point, however, the knowledge of the amazing spring and summer that is coming keeps you going.

This is a great time to plan for warm weather events. The last two years we have had a cook-out in Olympia mid-summer. It's been well attended and a lot of fun, but I plan on taking the year off from that event and hitting the road east.



Please mark your calendars for Aug. 17 for Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. We will be having a District 8 meeting at Landing's Park. We will be having a mid-day meal, presentations and prizes.

The following day, Aug. 18, we will be having a similar event in Missoula, Montana, at Bonner Park. Both events will have a Potawatomi Art contest with prizes for best Native themed art piece in the categories of Fine Arts, crafts and 12 years of age and under.

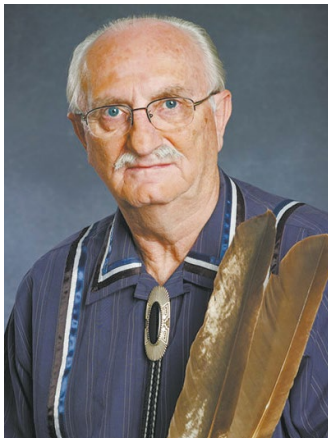
There will be invitations going out and RSVP dates determined. However, I know how hard it is to plan for all the summer vacations, camping trips, etc. — so it's good to get these dates on your calendar.

I am looking forward to seeing Potawatomi family in Oklahoma and at District meetings in 2024. Don't forget that the Family Reunion Festival (pow-wow) is June 28 through June 30. Booking flights is never fun, and the sticker shock on the tickets is very real. The best hotels in the Shawnee area are the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort, the Hampton Inn and the Holiday Inn Express. When communicating with the Grand's front desk, please be sure to tell them that you are visiting for the Family Festival.

On this theme of planning our gatherings, mid-October we will be having our Fall Feast in Portland, Oregon. I am working on the venue, so the exact date is still to be determined. It will be announced as soon as possible so folks can make their plans.

It is my honor to serve as your Legislator,

Dave Carney | Kagashgi (Raven) | dcarney@potawatomi.org | 360-259-4027



Paul Wesselhöft District 9

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),

IT'S HARD TO LET GO

At my advanced age, human deaths surrounding me cause me to ponder my mortality and destination. As a Christian, I have confidence in my eternal destination. However, I have a problem letting go of mortality and this world. This brief life is the only one I have known. I don't want the world to go on without me.

I view the world as God's gift to me. I hope he is pleased that I appreciate his creation to its fullness. Christians are taught to live in this world but be spiritually orientated toward the next. Here's my problem:

Despite all the pain and grief in the world, God still has created a great, exciting, mysterious and exploratory world, especially where I have lived and visited. This is the most amazing and extraordinary time in history to be alive.

God and humanity have created a wonderful and vibrant world in which to live. Despite setbacks, I have really enjoyed this life and the world around me. I find it difficult to let go of this world and all it offers. It's difficult but fascinating to wonder about the wonders the next few decades will bring.

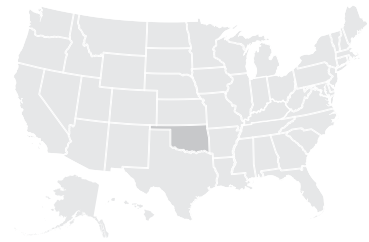
I want to see the good things artificial intelligence will bring us. There are delicious new foods I have yet to eat. I don't want to miss all the new technological and medical inventions and discoveries. I don't want to miss the next new car designs. I don't want to miss high speed rail and the next generation of high-speed quantum computers. I don't want to miss the cure for cancer. I don't want to miss how my nation, with all her faults, will advance, prosper, and make great contributions to the world.

I don't want to miss the prosperity my Native American nation will experience. I don't want to miss the things my friends and relatives will do. I don't want to miss the accomplishments and contributions my children will achieve after me. I don't want to miss the championships my home team will experience. I don't even want to miss my dog, Bravo, and all the play and intrigue he's destined to pursue.

Perhaps I'm too secular. However, I very often dwell on the wonderful and glorious things God has created and promised for me in the next life. So, am I too worldly, too secular by admitting that I will sure miss this world? It's hard to let go.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft | Naganit (Leader) | reppaul@gmail.com | pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org



Walking On

LTC Raymond Leo Rhodd Rhodd/Acton Family



LTC Raymond "Ray" Leo Rhodd, 78, of Topeka, Kansas, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, June 3, 2023. He was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and carried the name *Nahmankwet* "Lead Cloud," which he fully embodied as the leader of his family. He was also lovingly known as TaTa by his grandchildren.

He was born May 19, 1945, in Winfield, Kansas, the son of Maurice Leo and Avis Arlene (Hankins) Rhodd. Raymond graduated from Dexter High School in 1963 and earned a bachelor's degree in business from Southwestern College in Winfield. Ray began his military career when he entered the United States Army in 1967, retired active duty 1999, and went on to serve for the Department of the Army until he retired on July 1, 2021. Throughout his military career he received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB).

Ray never met a stranger and led a life of love and generosity towards his family and friends. He was grateful to God for every single day that he walked upon the earth and never failed to tell his three sons how proud he was and how much he loved them. Ray is survived by his three sons: Brian Rhodd, Bradley Rhodd and Steven Rhodd; six grandchildren: Colter Rhodd, Kingleigh Rhodd, Kolby Rhodd, Steven Rhodd, Jr., Liam Miller and Alaina Miller; his sweetie, Sandra Davern; and sister, Alice "Rhodd" Shelton.

Harold S. (Steve) Clement Curley Family



Steve Clement, age 69, of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, entered into rest on Jan. 6, 2024. Born March 3, 1954, in Shawnee, Oklahoma, Steve was the firstborn son and oldest of four children born to Harold Dean Clement and Martha Lou (Patterson) Clement.

Steve is survived by his father, Harold Dean Clement of Broken Arrow; one son, Steven Lewis Clement of Muskogee, Oklahoma; two grandsons, Robert Lewis Clement of Ponca City, Oklahoma, and Bryce Christopher Clement of Tonkawa, Oklahoma; one brother, David Dewayne Clement (Berta) of Broken Arrow; one sister, Rhonda Jean Lytton of Glendora, California; one

paternal aunt, Carol Jean Bonicelli (Pete) of Shawnee; and numerous extended family members. Steve was preceded in death 18 days before by his mother, Martha Lou (Patterson) Clement; his sister, Pamela Kay Kurr, who died in 2016; his brother-in-law, Raymond Alan Kurr, who died in 2014; and his brother-in-law, Gerald Craig Lytton, who died in 2022.

Steve was a Tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. More importantly, though, Steve was a member of the United Church of God. Having been baptized on March 21, 2013, and diagnosed with COPD and emphysema that same year, he faithfully endured to the end, trusting that God would heal him in this lifetime or during the resurrection at Christ's second coming.

Funeral services were held on Jan. 16, 2024, at United Church of God, 3210 S. 113th W. Avenue, Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063. Steve was interred at Oakdale Cemetery, 202 McNabb Drive, Mounds, Oklahoma 74047.

Darcee Dee Yancey Baptiste/Bruno/Rhodd Family



Shawnee resident Darcee (Baptiste) Yancey, 62, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024, at her home surrounded by family and friends.

A memorial ceremony was held at 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, at Immanuel Baptist Church.

Darcee was born December 6, 1961, in Shawnee, Oklahoma, to Marion J. Baptiste and Neoma (Pensoneau) Baptiste. She was the ninth of thirteen

children. She married the love of her life, Dwight Yancey on Sept. 7th, 1985, in Shawnee. Together they were co-owners of Shawnee Dry Cleaners. She was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Darcee loved going to the family lake place at Lake Eufaula. She loved to travel and spend time with her many friends. She enjoyed anything Disney and having Sunday dinners with her children and grandchildren. Darcee lived life to the fullest and was always up for a good time. She was so loved and will be missed immensely.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Marion "Leroy" Baptiste; and great-nephews, Ethan Marsh, Jeffrey Baptiste, and Storm O'Brien.

Survivors include her husband, Dwight Yancey of the home; daughter, Ashley Gatlin and husband Tony of Meeker; son, Ryan Yancey and wife Sommer of Shawnee; son, Andrew Yancey and wife Shelby of Shawnee; grandchildren, Bode and Bailyn Gatlin of Meeker; siblings, Barbara Orr, Monju Downing, Robert Baptiste, Chuck Baptiste, Mike Baptiste, Ricky Baptiste, Nita Baptiste, Greg Baptiste, Mary

Baptiste, Tim Baptiste, Suzette Baptiste; and numerous nieces, nephews, other family members and friends.

The family would like to thank Connie and Jackie with Choice Hospice for the wonderful care they provided.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Shawnee Little Theater, PO Box 1342, Shawnee, OK 74802 (write "Darcee Yancey" on the memo line).

Alan Dale Bradshaw
Bertrand/Bourassa Family



Alan Dale Bradshaw went to be with the Lord on Dec. 22, 2023. He was born on Aug. 14, 1962, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

He worked at Kito Crosby for 35 years. He was preceded in death by his mother, Wanda Bradshaw; his brother, Joe Bradshaw; and grandmother, Marcella Cherry.

He leaves behind his loving wife,

Brenda Bradshaw; his uncle, Glen Cherry; brother, Steven Teague; and nephew, Chris Bradshaw.

Everyone who knew Alan knew he loved traveling, antiquing and trying new restaurants with his beautiful wife. He also loved playing dominoes with his uncle on Friday nights and spending time with his three cats.

A celebration of his life was held Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023, at Lakeview Funeral Home in Longview, Texas.

Maida Stofferahn
Lewis/Bergeron Family



Maida Margaret (Lewis) Stofferahn, 83, of Okawville, Illinois, passed away at 4:29 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19, 2024, at her residence after a lengthy illness. She was born on Jan. 2, 1941, in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of Lester and Dorothy Guy Lewis. She married LaVerne Leonard "Stu" Stofferahn on Oct. 29, 1966, in Chicago, and he passed away in November of 1999. Also preceding

her in death were her parents; a sister, Gwen Bettig; and five brothers, Mike, Jerry, Dale, Bob and Keith Lewis.

Left to mourn her passing are her son, Leonard William Stofferahn of Harrisburg; a granddaughter, Shawna Kay Stofferahn; a stepson, Brad Joseph Peloquin of Texas; four step grandchildren; a brother, Lester Lewis of Medford, Wisconsin; three sisters, Kay Mielneczek of Woodstock, Illinois, Dorothy Horak of Lake Havasu, Arizona, and Cheryl Hartl of Marshfield, Wisconsin;

her very dear friends Susan and Lee Preis of Okawville, Illinois; niece, Susan (David) Lee of Shelbyville, Tennessee; along with many other nieces and nephews.

Maida first worked as a dental assistant, then a CNA and EMT before going to work in civil service with the United States Military at Scott Air Force Base. She was a proud Native American and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

A private interment will be held at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN) columbarium at the Shawnee Friends Mission in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Memorial contributions may be made to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Domestic Violence Prevention Program, House of Hope, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK. 74801. Styninger Funeral Home in Nashville is in charge of arrangements.

James M. Anderson
Anderson/Muller Family



James McClure Anderson "Bud Man" or Mac, age 69, passed away Dec. 2, 2023, at his home in Burr Oak, Kansas. Jim was born on July 12, 1954, in Forney, Texas, to Charles and Margye Anderson. James was a 1972 graduate of Leavenworth High School. On May 16, 1998, he married Teresa J. Hunt in Burr Oak at the fire hall surrounded by friends. To this union three children were born: Lynn, Kathaleen and

Becca Marie. Jim enjoyed hunting, fishing and driving a truck. Jim worked for Sunflower Manufacturing in Beloit, Kansas, as a forklift driver and parts handler. He later became a truck driver for Dahlsten Trucking Line, Inc., out of Clay Center, Nebraska. After beating cancer, he worked for Anderson Hay.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Margye Anderson; older brother, Steve; daughter, Becca; and nephew, Erik.

Jim is survived by his wife, Teresa "Terry" Anderson of Burr Oak; son, Lynn and wife Tabitha; daughter, Kathaleen; brother, Troy and wife Denise; sister, Judy and husband Cam; and Uncle, Orville; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and lots of nieces and nephews.

Antonio N. Castaneda
Burnett Family

Antonio N. Castaneda was born Oct. 19, 1948, in Toppenish, Washington, and walked on Aug. 1, 2022, in Los Banos, California.

Viewing and rosary were held Aug. 18, 2022, at Whitehurst Funeral Chapel in Los Banos, California.

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